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The Sultans of Swing Ephemera

The Sultans of Swing: 100 Years of Baseball,
Jazz, and Short Fiction

4-21-2016

The Sultans of Swing Conference - Program

CELIA

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THE SULTANS OF SWING

100 YEARS OF BASEBALL, JAZZ, AND SHORT FICTION



April 14–15, 2016

wright.edu/baseball



College of
Liberal Arts



WELCOME

CELIA, Wright State University's Ohio Center for Excellence in Collaborative Education, Leadership, & Innovation in the Arts, is pleased to sponsor *THE SULTANS OF SWING: 100 Years of Baseball, Jazz, and Short Fiction*, an interdisciplinary event celebrating the 100th anniversary of the publication of Ring Lardner's *You Know Me Al*, six *Saturday Evening Post* short stories that were bundled as the first literary baseball novel in 1916. Wright State University, the College of Liberal Arts, and CELIA welcome you to this special event. We're glad you've joined us!

THE SULTANS OF SWING: 100 Years of Baseball, Jazz, and Short Fiction features 15 lively talks by interdisciplinary experts and scholars on 20th-century American literature, culture, and history, including addresses by journalism historian Amber Roessner and cultural critic and historian Roberta Newman. Over the next two days, we hope these presentations will take you back a century to when baseball, jazz, and short fiction were all developing as American art forms. Further, we hope that you will make new connections about important critical elements, such as high art vs. low art, mainstream vs. marginalized perspectives, and commercialized vs. non-commercialized leisure, by examining these cultural phenomena in conjunction with each other. Baseball, jazz, and short fiction have all played a large role in American communication over the last century and have generated their share of cultural problems and concerns, from the Black Sox Scandal of 1919 to the dangers of "hot jazz" and "machine-made" fiction published in mass market magazines, controversies we often forget today, now that all three are considered classic art forms.

During Friday evening's baseball picnic, Hal McCoy, a Hall of Fame sportswriter, will offer perspectives on his half century covering the Cincinnati Reds for the *Dayton Daily News*. After the picnic we encourage you to join us at Nischwitz Stadium for a baseball game between the Wright State University Raiders and the University of Toledo Rockets to cap off this event in fitting style.

THE SULTANS OF SWING

100 YEARS OF BASEBALL, JAZZ, AND SHORT FICTION

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016

Millett Hall Atrium

5–7 p.m.

Registration check-in

Opening Reception (provided with advance reservations)

6–7 p.m.

Welcome

Hank Dahlman, Director

Introduction

Scott D. Peterson, 2015–16 CELIA Fellow

Keynote Address with Q&A

Amber Roessner, University of Tennessee

“Under the Big Tent: The Emergence of the Sports-Entertainment
Nexus in the Jazz Age”

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2016

Schuster Hall, Creative Arts Center

8 a.m.–noon

Registration check-in

8:45–9 a.m.

Introduction

9–10:15 a.m.

Session 1: Literature and Culture I

Ed Edmonds, Notre Dame University

“Gilbert Patten and the Development of Juvenile Baseball Fiction: Lefty
Locke and the Legacy of Frank Merriwell”

Craig This, Wright State University

“Closing the Frontier? Zane Grey’s Baseball Fiction”

Sharon Lynette Jones, 2015–16 CELIA Fellow, Wright State University

“Highlighting Harlem Renaissance Texts: Baseball and Jazz in Literary
Expression of the 1900s”

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

10:15–10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30–11:45 a.m.

Session 2—Baseball and Jazz History

Joe Marren, Buffalo State University

“Rube Foster Takes on Baseball at the Winter Meetings”

Geri Strecker, Ball State University

“Black Baseball in Indiana—A Documentary Film”

Stephanie Liscio, Cleveland State University

“A Look at Pittsburgh’s Hill District Neighborhood from 1930–1960
and the Importance of Jazz and Baseball to the Community”

Noon–1:15 p.m.

Millett Hall Atrium

Lunch (provided with advance reservations)

12:30–1:15 p.m.

Plenary Address with Q&A

Roberta Newman, New York University

“Swinging at the Crossroads: An Incomplete, Mostly Accurate Account of
Baseball, Popular Music, Race, and Their Intersections”

1:30–2:45 p.m.

Schuster Hall, Creative Arts Center

Session 3—Literature and Culture II

Emily Rutter, Ball State University

“‘Straighten Up and Fly Right’: A Contrafactual Reading of Percival
Everett’s *Suder* and Bernard Malamud’s *The Natural*”

Thomas Ruddick, Edison State College

“Mitty Takes the A Train to a Giants Game: Art and Sport as Artifact
of an Increasingly Individualized Culture”

Chris Risker, Webster University

“Liebman and Sillitoe and *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*”

2:45–3 p.m.

Break

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

3–4:15 p.m.

Session 4—Film, Myth, and Stadia

Lee Lowenfish, Long Island University–Brooklyn

“Joe E. Brown’s Portrayal of Ring Lardner Creations in the Hollywood of the 1930s: Reflections on *Elmer, the Great* and *Alibi Ike*”

Cesar Love, San Francisco State University

“Baseball, Jazz, and the Short Story: An Examination of Dionysian Vessels”

Rob Bellamy, Duquesne University, and James Walker, St. Xavier University

“Remember the ‘Cookie Cutters’: The Myth of Nostalgia, Sense of Place, and the Baseball Venues of the 1960s and 1970s”

4:15–4:30 p.m.

Break

4:30

Plenary Address with Q&A

Hal McCoy,

Dayton Daily News

“My Half Century Covering the Cincinnati Reds”

5:15–6:15

Creative Arts Commons

Baseball Picnic (provided with advance reservations—limited walk-up reservations available with credit card only)

6:30 p.m.

Nischwitz Stadium

Baseball Game

Toledo Rockets vs. Wright State Raiders

Shuttle service, departing Main Campus from the Millett bus stop, provided to and from Nischwitz Stadium

Pre-game 6:00, 6:20, 6:40 p.m.

Post-game 8:30, 8:50, 9:10 p.m.

Shuttle schedule back to Main Campus subject to change depending on game run-time.

SPEAKERS



HAL MCCOY, *Dayton Daily News* (Plenary Speaker), currently covers the Cincinnati Reds for Fox Sports Ohio and writes a blog, “The Real McCoy,” for the *Dayton Daily News*. He has covered the Reds since 1972 and is credited with coining the team’s nickname, “The Big Red Machine.”

On June 8, 2015, McCoy was inducted into the Hall of Fame for the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association. In 2002, he was honored by the Baseball Writers Association of America as the winner of the J.G. Taylor Spink Award, which recognizes writers “for meritorious contributions to baseball writing” each year during the induction ceremony at the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

McCoy is the author of *The Real McCoy: My Half Century with the Cincinnati Reds* (2015) and *The Royal Reds: Baseball’s New Dynasty* (1977). He also co-authored *The Official Pete Rose Scrapbook* (1985) with Pete Rose and *Drawing Pete* (2008) with Jerry Dowling. McCoy graduated with honors from the School of Journalism at Kent State University, where he played first base on a partial baseball scholarship.



ROBERTA NEWMAN, PH.D. (Plenary Speaker), cultural historian, focuses on the relationship between baseball, media—advertising, in particular—and identity formation. She is the co-author, along with Joel Nathan Rosen, of *Black Baseball, Black Business: Race Enterprise and the Fate of the Segregated Dollar* published by the University Press of Mississippi in 2014. Newman is a regular contributor to *NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture* and has published several chapters in *Cooperstown Symposium* anthologies, as well as a variety of journal articles and book chapters. She is currently at work on a book-length project focusing on baseball and advertising. A lifelong Brooklynite, Newman teaches interdisciplinary humanities courses in New York University’s Global Liberal Studies Program.

AMBER ROESSNER, PH.D. (Keynote Speaker), is an assistant professor of journalism and electronic media at the University of Tennessee. She is a former sports reporter for the *Gainesville Times* and *Athens Banner-Herald*, editor of *Gainesville Life*, and associate editor of *Athens Magazine*, all located in Georgia. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. Her first book, *Inventing Baseball Heroes: Ty Cobb, Christy Mathewson, and the Sporting Press in America*, was published by LSU Press in summer 2014, and her second book, *Jimmy Who: Jimmy Carter's 1976 Campaign and the Birth of the Rabbit-Bitten Presidency*, has an advanced contract with LSU Press. Her studies on mass icons, gender, and collective memory in American media have appeared in *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, *Journalism History*, and *American Journalism*, among others.



SHARON LYNETTE JONES, PH.D. (CELIA Fellow), is a professor in the Department of English Language and Literatures at Wright State University. She earned a B.A. and an M.A. from Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina, and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. Many of her publications have focused on African-American literature. Jones is the author of the following books: *Rereading the Harlem Renaissance: Race, Class, and Gender in the Fiction of Jessie Fauset, Zora Neale Hurston, and Dorothy West* (Greenwood Press) and *Critical Companion to Zora Neale Huston: A Literary Reference to Her Life and Work* (Facts on File). She also edited *Critical Insights: Zora Neale Hurston* (Salem Press), a book that includes essays analyzing Zora Neale Hurston's contributions to literary studies. Jones was a co-editor for *The Prentice Hall Anthology of African American Literature* (Prentice Hall), a book that includes texts by African American authors from the 18th century through the 20th century.



SCOTT D. PETERSON, PH.D. (CELIA Fellow), is an assistant professor at Wright State University in the Department of Communication. He is the author of *Reporting Baseball's Sensational Season of 1890: The Brotherhood War and the Rise of Modern Sports Journalism* and has published articles on baseball literature and culture in *Nine* and *Journalism History*, as well as several edited volumes. Peterson also serves as the fiction editor for *Aethlon*, the journal of the Sport Literature Association.



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in the Student Union Building

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significant
contribution
and support of CELIA's
The Sultans of Swing:
100 Years of Baseball,
Jazz, and Short Fiction.**



ENCOUNTERING SHAKESPEARE

40th Annual Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference

October 20–22, 2016 Wright State University Dayton, Ohio



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performance.

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THE SULTANS OF SWING

FLAPPER BALL

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 29, 2016
6–10 p.m.
Memorial Hall
Downtown Dayton

DANCING

learn Swing and Charleston moves

SPEAKEASY

special period “bathtub gin” drink

FLAPPER BUFFET

MUSIC

Dave Greer’s Classic Jazz Stompers

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